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**Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier**

May 20, 2013

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 44—Relative to the Joe Eddy McDonald Memorial Overcrossing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 44, as introduced, DeSaulnier. Joe Eddy McDonald Memorial Overcrossing.

This measure would designate the Willow Avenue Overcrossing over State Highway Route 4 in Contra Costa County as the Joe Eddy McDonald Memorial Overcrossing. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald was born March 6, 1945, in  
2 Lewisville, Arkansas, to the late Jesse and Geraldine McDonald;  
3 and  
4 WHEREAS, The McDonald Family moved to Richmond,  
5 California, in 1950; and  
6 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald received his primary education  
7 in the West Contra Costa Unified School District and graduated  
8 from Richmond Union High School; and  
9 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald enlisted in the United States  
10 Navy for a two-year tour of duty; and  
11 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald earned an associate of arts  
12 degree in business administration from Contra Costa College and

1 completed professional development courses offered by Duke and  
2 Harvard Universities; and

3 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald married his high school  
4 sweetheart, Mary Ann Rollins, on October 9, 1966, and had two  
5 beautiful daughters, Kimaree and Meiko; and

6 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald was a passionate father,  
7 committed to his family, which led to his future commitment as a  
8 humble servant to his community; and

9 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald began working for the United  
10 States Postal Service in 1966 as a letter carrier; and

11 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald worked his way through the  
12 ranks, eventually becoming postmaster of the Cities of Rodeo and  
13 Hercules and serving in that capacity for 19 years until his  
14 retirement in 2002; and

15 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald lost his daughter Kimaree  
16 McDonald and niece Tiffane Spencer in a tragic car accident in  
17 October 1994; and

18 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald spearheaded a campaign to  
19 widen and divide the two-lane stretch of State Highway Route 4  
20 on the west side of the County of Contra Costa to keep others from  
21 suffering the same tragic fate; and

22 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy and Mary Ann McDonald collected over  
23 10,000 signatures on a petition to state lawmakers, made  
24 presentations to government agencies, and organized a community  
25 walk to the Hercules City Council; and

26 WHEREAS, The McDonald's advocacy led to an \$86 million  
27 State Highway Route 4 widening project, which added two lanes;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald served as president of the  
30 Rodeo and Hercules Rotary Club; and

31 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald served as Area II Director of  
32 Chapter IV of the National Association of Postmasters of the  
33 United States; and

34 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald served as master of Monarch  
35 Lodge No. 73 for the State of California; and

36 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald was a founding member of  
37 the Black America's Political Action Committee, a member of the  
38 Black American Cultural Association, and a charter member of  
39 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,  
40 Hercules chapter; and

1 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald served on the Library Ad Hoc  
2 Fundraising Committee and the City of Hercules Planning  
3 Commission from December 2002 to November 2006, serving as  
4 chairman the last two and one-half years; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2006, Joe Eddy McDonald successfully  
6 campaigned to serve on the Hercules City Council, serving as vice  
7 mayor in 2008 and as mayor in 2009; and

8 WHEREAS, During Joe Eddy McDonald's tenure on the  
9 Hercules City Council, he was a dedicated and effective member  
10 of many regional committees, including the Pinole/Hercules  
11 Wastewater Management JPA, the West Contra Costa Integrated  
12 Waste Management Authority JPA, the Contra Costa Mayors  
13 Conference, and the Association of Bay Area Governments  
14 Executive Board; and

15 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald was responsible for the  
16 approved agreement with the West Contra Costa Unified School  
17 District to retain the music program in Hercules elementary schools  
18 and with Contra Costa College to provide classes in the  
19 redevelopment project area; and

20 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald is commended for his years  
21 of service to the residents of Hercules; and

22 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald and his family were charter  
23 members of the True Fellowship Baptist Church, where he served  
24 as chairman of the Trustee Ministry under the leadership of  
25 Reverend Robert K. Gordon; and

26 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald and his family later became  
27 members at Valley Bible Church under the pastorage of Dr. Phillip  
28 Howard; and

29 WHEREAS, On Saturday, June 9, 2012, Joe Eddy McDonald's  
30 earthly journey was complete; and

31 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald led a life of extraordinary  
32 courage and strength; and

33 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald leaves his legacy of love to  
34 his wife, Mary Ann McDonald, daughter Meiko McDonald,  
35 granddaughter Kimaree McDonald Solomon, all of Hercules, four  
36 brothers: John Wesley, Charles Edward (Aquila), Freddie Ray  
37 (Evelyn), and Steven Paul McDonald (Mpheza), one sister, Yvonne  
38 Marie McDonald, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other  
39 relatives, and dear friends; now, therefore, be it

1     *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
2     *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature honors the life,  
3     achievements, and distinguished career of Joe Eddy McDonald  
4     and recognizes Joe Eddy McDonald's honorable and faithful  
5     service to the people of Contra Costa County and the City of  
6     Hercules, and hereby designates the Willow Avenue Overcrossing  
7     over State Highway Route 4 in Contra Costa County as the Joe  
8     Eddy McDonald Memorial Overcrossing; and be it further

9     *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested  
10    to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the  
11    signing requirements for the state highway system showing this  
12    special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate  
13    sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it  
14    further

15    *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
16    this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author  
17    for appropriate distribution.